

Message Text

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11
ACTION EB-07

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R 100350Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6659
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAIR, ID
SUBJECT: APPROACH TO GOI REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
SECURITY

REF: STATE 212490

1. SUMMARY: SECURITY PROCEDURES AT HALIM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ARE FINE IN THEORY BUT SADLY LACKING IN PRACTICE. OFFICIALS
UP AND DOWN THE LINE EXPRESS CONCERN WITH PROBLEM OF AIRPORT
SECURITY, BUT THIS CONCERN IS NOT TRANSLATED INTO EFFECTIVE
SECURITY MEASURES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ABSENCE BOTH DIRGEN AIR COMMUNICATIONS KARDONO AND
DIRECTOR OF AIR TRANSPORTATION RISAKOTTA, EMBOFFS CALLED
ON ACTING DIRECTOR OF AIR TRANSPORTATION KARNAEN SEPTEMBER 1
TO EXPRESS USG CONCERN WITH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY.
KARNAEN WAS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH USG POLICIES AND
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PRACTICES. DURING COURSE OF MORE THAN HOUR GIVE AND TAKE

ON SUBJECT OF AIR SAFETY, HE OUTLINE GOI'S SECURITY PROCEDURES AND CONTINGENCY PLANS AND SOUGHT TO ASSURE EMBOFFS THAT GOI VIEWS MATTER OF AIR SAFETY SERIOUSLY. INDONESIA HAS SUFFERED ONLY ONE HIJACKING (DOMESTIC) AND SEEKS TO AVOID ANOTHER.

3. SUBSEQUENT VISIT BY EMBOFF AND RSO TO HALIM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT REVEALED SERIOUS FLAWS IN SECURITY PRACTICES. TOP AIRPORT AUTHORITIES WERE FAMILIAR WITH ICAO ANNEX 17 BUT VAGUE AS TO HOW EXTENSIVELY ITS RECOMMENDATIONS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT AT HALIM. PASSES ALLOWING ACCESS TO RESTRICTED AREAS, WHICH ARE SAID TO BE CLOSELY HELD, MAY IN FACT BE PURCHASED (AS WAS DONE ON EARLIER OCCASION BY RSO, WHO WAS UNKNOWN TO AUTHORITIES AND WHO WAS NOT REQUIRED TO PRODUCE ID). DEPARTING PASSENGERS PASS THROUGH METAL DETECTOR PRIOR TO ENTERING DEPARTURE/TRANSIT LOUNGE, BUT HAND BAGGAGE IS NOT SEARCHED UNTIL IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO BOARDING. TRANSIT PASSENGERS ARE SUBJECT TO NO CHECKS BEFORE ENTERING DEPARTURE/TRANSIT LOUNGE WHERE THEY ARE FREE TO MINGLE WITH DEPARTING PASSENGERS. THEY DO PASS THROUGH SAME PRE-BOARDING CHECKS AS OTHER DEPARTING PASSENGERS (HAND BAGGAGE SEARCHED, A SECOND WALK-THROUGH DETECTOR, WHICH WAS NOT PLUGGED IN--AND A HAND METAL DETECTOR, WHICH WAS OPERABLE). GLASS DOORS TO TARMAC FROM DEPARTURE LOUNGE ARE FREQUENTLY LEFT UNLOCKED FOR LONG PERIODS. LOCAL PAN AM REP STATES SITUATION EVEN WORSE THAN THAT OBSERVED BY EMBOFF AND THAT HALIM IS AS BAD AS DON MUANG. REP MAINTAINS THAT WESTERNERS ARE ABLE TO WANDER THROUGHOUT RESTRICTED AREAS VIRTUALLY AT WILL AND THAT IT IS NOT UNCOMMON FOR WESTERNERS TO GO FROM DEPARTURE LOUNGE TO PUBLIC AREAS AND THEN BACK AGAIN WITHOUT BEING SCREENED.

4. KARNAEN SHOWED STRONG INTEREST IN FAA SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BY POUCH FULL INFORMATION ON TIMING AND SUBJECT MATTER OF COURSES TO BE OFFERED OVER THE NEXT YEAR.

5. GOI REATIFIED HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS THIS YEAR.

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6 COMMENT: RATHER THAN TRAINING IN HOW TO ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE PROCEDURES, THE NEED IS ONE OF TEACHING/PERSUADING AIRPORT SECURITY PERSONNEL TO CARRY OUT EFFECTIVELY THE PROCEDURES NOW IN EFFECT. IF HALIM WERE AS SAFE IN PRACTICE AS IT IS ON PAPER, IT PROBABLY WOULD COMPARE FAVORABLY WITH AIRPORTS IN MOST LDC'S.
NEWSOM

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